

Remarks

Upon entry of this Amendment, cancelled claims will be 1-10, 19, 20 & 22. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

The courtesies extended by the Examiner during the Interview of July 6, 2004 are acknowledged and appreciated. The substance of that interview is expressed in the Interview Summary mailed on July 27, 2004.

In compliance with paragraph 1 of the final Office Action dated April 9, 2004, the non-elected claims have been cancelled.

The "vinyl" limitation has been deleted from claim 11.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 11-18 & 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, § 1. Support for the substrate being flexible appears in the Specification at 6:28 ("semi-rigid plastic"). The "semi-" qualifier connotes a deviation from rigidity which is embraced by the limitation "flexible", as applied in claim 11 to the "substrate" element. Additionally, the Specification calls for "at least a semi-rigid plastic material". The "at least" qualifier is applied to the phrase "semi-rigid". Thus, to one of skill in the art, the term "at least" would connote a plastic material which retains some flexibility.

Claim 1 calls for the insert panel to have "a characterizing topography having a finish selected from the group consisting of a metallic and a wood grain-like finish that is visible through the opening of the substrate." Support lies in the Specification at 6:4-5.

In contrast, the '511 reference calls for a "covering 6 . . . [which comprises] a layer of soft material, such as wadding or the like, to which is heat-welded a layer of natural or synthetic fabric . . ." Thus, the '511 Patent fails to disclose the invention as claimed. Additionally, the approach disclosed by the '511 reference teaches away from the invention


as claimed in that it entails at least one additional manufacturing step (heat welding a layer of fabric).

A check in the amount of \$ 595.00 is enclosed to cover the two-month petition fee of \$ 210.00 and the RCE filing fee of \$ 385.00. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

If further discussion would be helpful in expediting matters, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned. Otherwise, a Notice of Allowability is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Patrick Carroll III

By 
William G. Abbatt
Reg. No. 31,936
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351